TO THE

# WORTHY and INDEPENDENT ELECTORS

OF THE

# BOROUGH of SOUTHWARK.

GENTLEMEN,

ON my return to town, for the purpoſe of attending my duty at the Seſſions for London and Middleſex, I had the honor of receiving a deputation from a very reſpectable meeting, held at the *Surrey Tavern*, inviting me to offer myſelf as a Candidate to repreſent you in Parliament, in the place of your late worthy member Mr. POLHILL; and aſſuring me, that notwithſtanding the length of time a canvaſs had been carried on, a very great majority of the ELECTORS, were ſtill diſengaged, and inclined to ſupport a Candidate of thoſe independent principles which they did me the honor to believe I poſſeſſed. Since that many of the moſt reſpectable Gentlemen have voluntarily formed themſelves into Committees, for the purpoſe of conducting a canvaſs, on principles ſo Nobly Generous and Independent as muſt reflect equal honor on themſelves, and the Candidate, who is ſo happy as to be the object of their choice.

In this ſituation, I ſhould hold myſelf wanting in the reſpect due both to theſe Gentlemen and to you, were I to hold back any longer, from making you a public offer of my beſt ſervice, if I am ſo happy as to be honoured with the ſame approbation by a majority of the ELECTORS, of which I have received ſuch flattering marks from ſo reſpectable a part of them. Though I have no perſonal motives to wiſh for a ſeat in Parliament at preſent, nor any private intereſt of my own to ſerve, yet the Independent Repreſentation of ſuch a Borough as yours, is an honour too valuable not to be earneſtly ſought for by every prudent and honourable means. This honour, great in itſelf, will be ſtill more enhanſed by the idea, that being conferred by thoſe, to moſt of whom I am perſonally a ſtranger, it muſt ariſe from ſome degree of approbation of my public conduct. TO THAT I am under a neceſſity of appealing, though with the greateſt diffidence; fully ſenſible that nothing can give me the ſmalleſt pretenſion to ſo diſtinguiſhed a mark of confidence, as that which I now preſume to ſolicit, unleſs my paſt conduct has, upon the whole, appeared to you ſuch as you can approve.

If, as a Member of the late Parliament, I have appeared, in any one inſtance, to conſult my own Intereſt or Ambition, — If I have ever given a ſingle Vote againſt the Rights and Liberties of Mankind, or in Support of that fatal ſyſtem which has brought this GREAT and MIGHTY EMPIRE to the brink of Deſtruction; I can, I am ſure, have no Claim to your Favour or Support. On your Judgment therefore I muſt throw myſelf, conſcious of no merit but a moſt ſincere wiſh to exert every Effort of mine, in conjunction with better and abler Men, to ſtem the Torrent of corruption, to re-eſtabliſh, if poſſible, the Power and Glory of my Country, to reſtore the Principles of the Conſtitution to their full Vigor and Purity, to vindicate the Rights and Privileges of the People of England, and promote, as far as ſo inconſiderable an Individual can, the general Proſperity of the whole Kingdom, and that of the Borough of SOUTHWARK in particular.

I am particularly unfortunate, that the unavoidable Attendance on my public duty at the preſent Seſſions, deprives me of the Poſſibility of teſtifying my reſpect, by a perſonal application to the individual Electors. They may be aſſured my reſpect is not the leſs upon that account; but Gentlemen, who act themſelves on ſuch Noble Public Principles, would hold me unworthy of their eſteem, if I could neglect a moſt important public duty, to gratify any ambition of my own. I muſt therefore truſt wholly to the Independent ſpirit of the ELECTORS, and that Opinion of my Principles, which many of them have already done me the honour to expreſs, for that ſucceſs which I can expect on no other ground; aſſuring them that, if I am ſo highly honoured, I will never in any inſtance depart from thoſe Principles, which they reward with ſo flattering a Confidence,

I have the honour to be, with the moſt ſincere Reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

*Your moſt obedient humble Servant,*

JAMES ADAIR.

[illegible] Inn-Fields,
[illegible] 17[illegible].